

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

M.C., who sues by and through
her Mother and Next of Friend,
Gail Tatum,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO.: 2:06cv83-WKW

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION,
et al.,

Defendants.

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RICKY PHILLIPS, as
Administrator of the Estate
of Susan Phillips, deceased,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO.: 2:06cv84-WKW

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION,
et al.,

Defendants.

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SARAH K. THOMPSON, as
Administratrix of the Estate
of Royce Thompson, deceased,

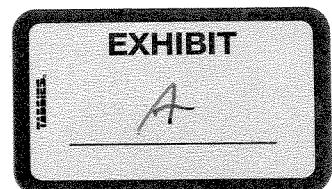
Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO.: 2:06cv85-WKW

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION,
et al.,

Defendants.



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

LILLIAN EDWARDS, as
Administratrix of the Estate
of Marvin Mays, deceased,
Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO.: 2:06cv86-WKW

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION,
et al.,

Defendants.

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JANICE MADDEN, as
Administratrix of the Estate
of James Madden, deceased,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO.: 2:06cv186-WKW

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION,
et al.,

Defendants.

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SHERRI L. DAVIS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO.: 2:06cv187-WKW

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION,
et al.,

Defendants.

Page 3

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

THOMAS DOUGLAS, as
Administrator of the Estate of
Sebera Gayle Douglas, deceased,
Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO.: 2:06cv188-WKW

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION,
et al.,

Defendants.

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LORRINE THOMPSON, as
Administratrix of the Estate
of Jerry Thompson, deceased,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO.: 2:06cv189-WKW

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION,
et al.,

Defendants.

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STANTON KELLEY, as
Administrator of the Estate
of William Kelley, deceased,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO.: 2:06cv190-WKW

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION,
et al.,

Defendants.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

GINGER CRAVEY, as
Administratrix of the Estate
of Riley Cravey, deceased,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO.: 2:06cv191-WKW

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION,
et al.,

Defendants.

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STATUS CONFERENCE

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BEFORE THE HONORABLE W. KEITH WATKINS, UNITED STATES
DISTRICT JUDGE, at Montgomery, Alabama, on Tuesday, May 23,
2006, commencing at 4:02 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

FOR THE PLAINTIFFS:

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Mr. Gregory Andrews Cade
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Mr. William Eason Mitchell
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1 APPEARANCES, Continued:

2 FOR THE DEFENDANTS:

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16 ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. James Faulkner
General Counsel, PACTIV Corporation

Ms. Laura E. Proctor
In-house Counsel
Louisiana-Pacific Corporation

Proceedings reported stenographically;
transcript produced by computer.

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1 nightmare.

2 THE COURT: Well, while you're up there, let's move on
3 to the next motion. And you asked for early -- well, early
4 meeting to plan the discovery. And you've alleged in your
5 motion -- you didn't ask to take any depositions to preserve
6 testimony, but you've alleged that parties are passing away.
7 And you've already said today that the plaintiff in case number
8 83 is now deceased. Would -- I'm assuming that the witnesses --
9 that the expert witnesses, at least, and the former employees,
10 probably, will all be the same -- who are going to testify on
11 your side of the case will all be the same in all of the cases;
12 is that correct?

13 MR. MITCHELL: Yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: So I do intend to consolidate these cases
15 for discovery only, and I'll tell you about that in a minute.
16 But I'm trying to get the timing in my mind. When I enter this
17 ruling on the motions to dismiss and for more definite
18 statement, is that going to clear you up to file the rest of
19 your cases?

20 MR. MITCHELL: Yes, sir. That clears me up. And
21 Judge, we did -- I asked learned counsel about taking the
22 deposition of Melanie before her death, and the answer was we'll
23 get back to you Wednesday. Thursday morning, we agreed to
24 schedule it, and I found out she had died the night before.
25 Our -- we don't know who's going to die next or which one it's

1 going to be. I can't tell you that someone -- it happens so
2 fast. I don't know how to deal with it. But we know that there
3 is -- we'd like to depose the sickest people.

4 THE COURT: How many are you talking about?

5 MR. MITCHELL: Less than ten. And some of these
6 chemicals also cause cognitive defects and cognitive
7 deficiencies, like an early onset of Alzheimer's and
8 forgetfulness. And some of the ex-employees who are not old
9 enough to have Alzheimer's are showing the symptoms, and we
10 don't know how fast they're going to go downhill. We'd like to
11 get a few of the key witnesses who are starting to show
12 cognitive deficiencies which are consistent with this chemical
13 exposure -- we'd like to get them tied down.

14 THE COURT: Is that in the ten or is that ten
15 additional or is that --

16 MR. MITCHELL: I think we can put that in the ten.

17 THE COURT: So you're representing to the Court that it
18 might be helpful to you to preserve the testimony of ten
19 witnesses.

20 MR. MITCHELL: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: All right. Let me get some responses from
22 defendant.

23 Mr. Taylor, would you -- Mr. Berghoff?

24 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor, I think --

25 THE COURT: There's room for both of you.

1 MR. TAYLOR: -- we'll both walk up together on this.
2 You know, obviously, generally, we want to -- we want to
3 cooperate and we want to help the plaintiffs with this very
4 serious and obviously sensitive issue. Before, however, we
5 would be tasked to go and take these depositions, I think we'd
6 want to do some preliminary work to see maybe some medical work
7 just to see what's really going on there to see if, indeed, the
8 medical evidence supports the fact these folks are imminently
9 about to pass away.

10 THE COURT: Well, Mr. Taylor, I saw a representation
11 probably in the plaintiffs' brief that there have been a
12 truckload of medical documents already submitted.

13 I will ask you, Mr. Mitchell, have -- do the defendants
14 have medical records on these ten folks you say you need to
15 depose?

16 MR. MITCHELL: Some of the -- a few of the people would
17 be the ex-employees, and they would not have medical records on
18 those.

19 THE COURT: Do you have the records on those?

20 MR. MITCHELL: I do not. They're -- the ex-employees
21 are not plaintiffs, and these are not injured people. These are
22 witnesses.

23 THE COURT: How do you propose the defendants get a
24 fair shot of taking someone's deposition where they don't have
25 their medical records or other records available and have not

1 had the benefit of interrogatory answers and requests for
2 admissions and so forth?

3 MR. MITCHELL: First of all, it's just like any other
4 witness. The -- now, on the plaintiffs, we -- either they have
5 the medical records -- I believe they have the medical records
6 on all the plaintiffs. There are five live plaintiffs, and I
7 think you've got -- they've got medical records on all of them.
8 Judge, we'll also agree that if the parties are alive later,
9 they can come back and depose them again. We'd agree to put
10 them up a second time. But just in fairness, people are getting
11 forgetful, and they are unexpectedly coming down, relapsing, and
12 dying.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Mitchell.
14 Mr. Taylor, go ahead. Or are you finished?

15 MR. TAYLOR: I think I'm finished on that point, Your
16 Honor.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Berghoff?

18 MR. BERGHOFF: No, I think we are -- Your Honor, we're
19 in agreement with what Mr. Taylor has said.

20 THE COURT: All right. So when you talk about
21 background work, besides medical, is there any other?

22 MR. TAYLOR: Well, not knowing who the plaintiffs are,
23 yes. I would think at this point, based upon the reason that we
24 would be taking the depositions, that it would be primarily
25 medical stuff that we would need to get our arms around first.